

# **Polk Sanitary Milk Company collection L212**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 31, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Mecca Realty Company.
<b>Creator</b>	Polk Sanitary Milk Company.
<b>Creator</b>	Polk, James T.
<b>Title</b>	Polk Sanitary Milk Company collection
<b>Date</b>	1904-1961 and undated
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Cubic feet 2 manuscript boxes
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Polk Sanitary Milk Company collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Administrative History

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Polk Sanitary Milk Company was started in 1872 as a canned tomatoes company by Civil War veteran James T. Polk and his wife, Laura (Burdick) Polk in their Greenwood, Indiana home. As the company expanded, it produced scrap agricultural produce, which they bought cows to utilize. They sold the milk to Tanglewood Dairy Company (Indianapolis, Indiana), which they bought out in the 1890s. The company expanded to a new building at the corner of N. 15th and Lewis St., adding 2 oversize sculptures of milk bottles to 2 corners of the building. "Pok-o-lak" was their signature buttermilk product. The business was managed by the couple's daughter and son-in-law into the 1940s. The business experienced financial hardships in the 1950s and closed around 1963. The building became the property of Indianapolis Public Schools, which demolished it in 1967. The Polk family also owned the Mecca Realty Company of Indianapolis.

Information found within the collection.

"Indianapolis Then and Now: Polk Sanitary Milk Company". [Historicindianapolis.com](http://historicindianapolis.com). Retrieved 2016/03/23. <http://historicindianapolis.com>

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection includes company account books and microfilmed copies of drivers' route sheets from Polk Sanitary Milk Company; records of the Mecca Realty Company; and records of the Citizens Brewery Company in Indianapolis, Indiana ranging from 1904-1961 regarding business, financial and legal matters.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged by subject.

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## Administrative Information

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## **Publication Information**

Rare Books and Manuscripts

## **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

## **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Polk Sanitary Milk Company in 1963.

## **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

## **Processing Information**

Collection processing completed 2016/03/30 by Edythe Huffman. EAD finding aid created 2016/03/30 by Edythe Huffman.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- Citizens Brewery (Indianapolis, Ind.).

### **Subject(s)**

- Business records
- Milk industry

- Milk supply--Indiana

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Reel</b>
Route sheets, R. 1-16, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	1
Route sheets, R. 17-40, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	2
Route sheets, R. 40-59, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	3
Route sheets, R. 60-65, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	4
Route sheets, R. 66-79, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	5
Route sheets, R. 80-97, Mar.-Apr. 1961	1	6
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Object</b>
Metal reel, undated	1	7
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Papers and scrapbook, 1916-1933	1	1
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Account book, 1904-1907	2	1
Account book, 1907-1910	2	2

Account book, 1925-1934	3	3
Account book, 1937-1938	3	4